

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated October 11, 2007. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 and 7-26 are currently pending in the Application. Claim 6 is canceled herein without prejudice. Claim 21-26 are added by this amendment. Claims 1, 13 and 17 are independent claims.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-5 and 7-20 are amended for better conformance to U.S. practice, such as deleting reference numerals typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims. Further amendments include correcting a clerical error in claim dependency of claim 19 noted in the Office Action. By these amendments, claims 1-5 and 7-20 are not amended to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents. Applicants furthermore reserve the right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein at a later time during the prosecution of this application or continuing applications.

The Applicants want to thank the Examiner for the indication that claim 6 contains allowable subject matter if amended to be in independent form. In accordance with the indication, claim 6 is canceled herein and the allowable subject matter is incorporated into claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested. Claims 2-5, 7-12 and 21-22 depend from claim 1 and accordingly are allowable for at least this reason as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the claims. Accordingly, separate consideration of each of claims 2-5, 7-12 and 21-22 is respectfully requested. In addition, claims 18 and 26 contain similar subject matter as indicated allowable relating to claim 6, and accordingly should be similarly allowable, and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5 and 7-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,226,540 to Bradbury ("Bradbury") or in the alternative as obvious over Bradbury. Claims 11, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Bradbury in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,804,676 to Dalton ("Dalton") in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,486,536 to Olson ("Olson") in view of U.S. Patent No.

6,356,238 to Gainor ("Gainor") in view of European Patent Application No. 689,298 ("Europe"). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-5 and 7-20 are allowable over any combination of Bradbury, Dalton, Olson, Gainor and Europe for at least the following reasons.

As a first point, claims 1-5, 7-12, 18, 21-22 and 26 are allowable for at least containing subject matter indicated as allowable as stated above.

Bradbury is cited for showing an antenna mounted on a surface of a case. What in fact Bradbury shows is a power switch 23 and indicator light 23A (see, FIGs. 2 and 6) mounted on an outside of the case. The switch enables energizing of an external transceiver that may include an antenna as shown in FIG. 6 (see, Col. 4, lines 44-54). It is submitted that Bradbury does not disclose or suggest an "an antenna integral with an outside surface of the luggage" as recited by claim 13 nor "a wireless communication system integrally formed with an outside surface of the luggage" as recited by claim 17.

Olson, Dalton, Europe and Gainor are cited for showing an antenna on a surface of a case however, it is respectfully submitted that reliance on these references is misplaced.

Olson shows a radio antenna sewn within an internal partition 66 of the case (see, FIG. 1, and Col. 5, lines 26-28). To operate the antenna of Olson, the case must be opened or the partition may be removed from the case to facilitate reception (see, Col. 5, lines 29-52) accordingly, the solution provided by Olson is inconvenient and cumbersome.

Dalton shows an antenna 16 secured by tacks 17 to an inner wall of a lid 3 (see, FIGs. 2 and 3 and page 2, Col. 1, lines 23-30). Gainor shows an antenna vest with an antenna sewn into a clothing article (see, FIG. 1). Europe shows a radio 12 and antenna (not shown) that may be mounted on the inside of a case.

It is respectfully submitted that forming the antenna integral with an outside surface of the luggage as recited in claims 13 and 17, the antenna may be utilized without reposition of the antenna or without having to open the case as required by each of the cited references. By forming the antenna from a fiber construction as recited in claims 14, 21-25 a flexible, resilient and discrete antenna is provided. By utilizing the fiber of the antenna to form a portion of the outside of the luggage, the above benefits are further enhanced (see, claims 22, 23 and 25).

It is respectfully submitted that the luggage of claim 13 is not anticipated or made obvious by the teachings of any combination of Bradbury, Dalton, Olson, Gainor and Europe. For example, Bradbury, Dalton, Olson, Gainor and Europe does not disclose or suggest, luggage that amongst other patentable elements, comprises (illustrative emphasis provided) "an antenna integral with an outside surface of the luggage, one or more electronic and/or wireless devices, wherein said interface facilitates the cooperation between said one or more electronic and/or wireless devices and said antenna" as recited in claim 13, nor "a wireless communication system integrally formed with an outside surface of the luggage, wherein said interface facilitates the cooperation between said one or more electronic and/or wireless devices and said wireless communication system" as recited in claim 17.

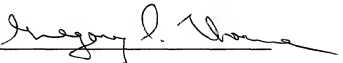
Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 13 and 17 are patentable over any combination of Bradbury, Dalton, Olson, Gainor and Europe and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Claims 14-16, 18, 19 and 22-26 respectively depend from one of claims 13 and 17 and accordingly are allowable for at least this reason as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the claims.

Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

Applicants have made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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